

people, and the Chinese Government has retaliated now, as they have in the past, by harassing her children who live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by placing them under house arrest, by incarcerating them and by beating them.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives, both Republicans and Democrats alike, ask that Beijing end this campaign of retaliation against the Kadeer family. We join the voice of those who care for those kids, an anguished mother who cries, "let my children go."

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We also ask that Beijing immediately release Hussein Celil, an ethnic Uyghur who is a citizen of Canada, so he can rejoin his family living in that country.

Finally, in the darkness of the political oppression of the Uyghur people, Rebiya Kadeer stands out as a beacon of light and hope. Let us honor her and her family and her work by enthusiastically supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and thank my good friend from New Jersey. I call him the champion of human rights all over the world. Wherever there is violation of human rights, he is there; and I commend him for his efforts all these years that I have been privileged to work closely with him on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I recall years ago Mr. Mandela was accused by a former Prime Minister of Great Britain as being a terrorist. Of course, having served in prison for 29 years, all he was trying to say was that something was wrong in South Africa. They call it apartheid. If that isn't a human rights violation, I don't know what is.

But the fact that these two people, the lady and her children and this Canadian citizen, whether it is 2 or 3 or 3 million, our government and this Congress should give every attention as far as to the needs of those people as far as human rights violations are concerned.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 497, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately release from custody the children of Rebiya Kadeer and Canadian citizen Huseyin Celil and should refrain from further engaging in acts of cultural, linguistic, and religious suppression directed against the Uyghur people, and for other purposes. I want to congratulate my good friend and colleague, the distinguished ranking member of this Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for this important human rights resolution. It is the responsibility of the Congress to remind the government of the People's Republic of China of their obligations to live up to international standards to protect ethnic cultural identities and minority rights.

Mr. Speaker, not only does the People's Republic of China systemically abuse the basic human rights of its minority citizens, but its repressive tactics extend to the members of po-

litically active human rights advocates' families. Furthermore, the government has manipulated the international war on terrorism to justify its repressive treatment of the Muslim population living in Xinjiang, as well as encouraging Chinese migration into the region in an attempt to purify the region of its traditional Uyghur occupants.

It is extremely important that the United States hold the government of the People's Republic of China responsible to international standards regarding political as well as basic human rights. The government brutally suppresses even the slightest attempts of peaceful political, religious, and cultural expression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. As a member of Congress, I feel particularly responsible to Uyghur human rights activist Rebiya Kadeer, who was arrested while she was on her way to meet representatives of our Congressional Research Service. While she was released from prison following international lobbying efforts, deemed a prisoner of consciousness by Amnesty International, upon resumption of her human rights advocacy abroad, her sons in Xinjiang were arrested and remain imprisoned to this day.

This resolution also raises the human rights issues of Huseyin Cecil, a Uyghur Canadian who was recently convicted in a kangaroo court to life imprisonment on "bogus" charges. The Canadian government and Embassy Officials have been refused access to their citizen throughout the process, and the Chinese government has blatantly refused to accept even the most basic norms of diplomatic conduct.

By supporting this resolution, the United States will alert the Chinese government that it must respect the minority rights of the Uyghur people as well as the rights of human rights advocates. The resolution requires the immediate release of the children of Rebiya Kadeer as well as Mr. Cecil so that they might all return to their families.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 497.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MALAYSIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 518) recognizing the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 518

Whereas Malaysia is a multi-religious and multi-racial democracy in Southeast Asia that is important to the United States' strategic interests;

Whereas Malaysia is one of the United States' key allies in efforts to combat international terrorism, and it condemns all terrorism, regardless of its cause or objectives;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has condemned those seeking to incite race and religious hatred, including anti-Semitism;

Whereas Malaysia has taken a leading regional role in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics in Southeast Asia, through intelligence sharing, close cooperation in law enforcement, participation in joint exercises and training, and other cooperative efforts with its neighboring countries and the United States;

Whereas Malaysia is the United States' 10th largest trading partner, and the two countries have signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement;

Whereas Malaysia has consistently been a favored destination of American investment due to its competitive advantages, including good infrastructure, a highly-trained, educated, and multilingual workforce, and a business-friendly government;

Whereas the Malaysian Constitution guarantees gender equality, and the many accomplishments of Malaysian women evidence Malaysia's commitment to the advancement of women's social, economic, and legal status;

Whereas Malaysia was ruled by the United Kingdom until 1957;

Whereas Malaysia gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 31, 1957; and

Whereas August 31, 2007, is the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, as well as the United States-Malaysia relationship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's independence;

(2) expresses congratulations to Malaysia on reaching this national milestone; and

(3) expresses its support for an ongoing strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Malaysia and the continued cooperation of the two countries in such important areas as counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, and trade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and thank the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the senior ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for their support in bringing this legislation before the floor.